

and created many inaugural events, including ArtSparkle for the Indianapolis Art Center, the Tribute for the Indiana State Museum, and REV to benefit Methodist Health Foundation.

She also had extensive board participation, serving on the boards of the Indianapolis Art Center, Indiana State Museum, Championship Auto Racing Auxiliary, The National Art Museum of Sports, The Oaks Academy, and Ballet Internationale, to name a few. Her other affiliations include the Governor's Residence Commission, St. Margaret's Hospital Guild, American Cancer Society Guild, Presidents Roundtable, Indiana Children's Wish Fund's Ball and Spotlight, and Keep Indianapolis Beautiful. She was cause-oriented and loved a challenge; give her a goal and she was a fundraising machine. But most of all, she always had fun—and made sure everyone else did, too.

Judy was an innovator and the Hoosier community was her beneficiary. She brought so much good to the City of Indianapolis, and her hard work did not go unnoticed. After she completed her Junior League of Indianapolis Presidency Mayor Bart Peterson named June 4, 2003 as Judy Warren Day in the City of Indianapolis. She also received Governor Daniels' Distinguished Hoosier Award in 2006 and Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard's Community Achievement Award in 2010.

Judy was an embodiment of all that is kind and generous. Judy is and always will be an inspiration to me. Her grace, bravery, and spirit will live on through those whose lives she touched. She is survived by her husband, Brick; son, Clay, and his wife Stasha; her mother, Vera; and her beloved grandchildren, Katie and Ethan. She is also survived by her stepson, Ryan, and his wife, Elizabeth; and their children, Elijah Brick (E.B.), Martha Claire and George Taylor Warren. Judy Warren is an example of a great American woman who throughout her lifetime served her family, her friends, and community with passion and love.

H.R. 2999, THE FAIR VA
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce H.R. 2999, the Fair VA Accountability Act, legislation that will bring real accountability to the VA while maintaining constitutional due process protections for civil service employees.

Last year, we were horrified to learn of widespread mismanagement at the VA. We all felt outraged that VA employees whose actions may have harmed veterans remained in their jobs or sat at home for months on paid administrative leave. There have been other bills introduced that seek to bring greater flexibility to the VA to remove problem employees, but I believe that many do this by destroying the bedrock principles of our civil service, limiting due process to an extent that runs counter to the constitutional protections we enjoy. I think these bills have another failing—they likely would result in outcomes far different than their sponsors and proponents intend. By violating the due process rights of our

federal employees, these bills could very well ensure that if followed, VA may never be able to effectively remove bad employees when a court finds them unconstitutional.

The Fair VA Accountability Act increases accountability by allowing VA to immediately suspend without pay any employee whose misconduct poses a direct threat to veterans' health and safety. VA currently has the authority to fire employees with adequate pre-termination notice—usually 30 days. I agree that VA needs to do a better job of utilizing this authority. But the only realistic reason a VA employee should be fired on the spot would be if his or her conduct threatened veterans' health and safety.

I believe my bill provides the proper balance between the needs of the VA and the rights of VA employees. I also believe it provides sufficient due process rights to meet constitutional requirements and provide accused employees with a fair chance to tell their side of the story. Keep in mind that over 30 percent of VA employees are veterans themselves—the largest percentage of veteran employees among civilian agencies. I am proud to promote a policy that protects these employees' constitutional right to due process before losing their federal job.

In addition to the immediate removal provision, my bill increases accountability at the VA by addressing the “revolving door” problem, prohibiting senior VA executives from receiving VA contracts for at least a year after they leave the VA. It also limits the use of paid administrative leave to 14 days, to ensure employees don't continue to draw paychecks while sitting at home for months.

Finally, the Fair VA Accountability Act protects whistleblowers by requiring mandatory back-pay for any employee who proves that dismissal was a result of whistleblower retaliation. My bill also requires the IG to report on the percentage of employees fired who claimed whistleblower protections, and retains existing Title 5 protections for VA employees.

As stated in a letter of support by the American Federation of Government Employees, this language establishes “highly effective mechanisms for increasing VA accountability while preserving the due process rights of front-line employees so that they can still make lifesaving disclosures about patient harm and other mismanagement without the fear of immediate job loss as at-will employees.”

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE OLDE FORGE-SURREY
SQUARE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Olde Forge-Surrey Square on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Located in the heart of Fairfax County and the 11th Congressional District of Virginia, the Olde Forge-Surrey Square subdivision is set in a beautiful location, surrounded by large parks and streams. The residents take great pride in their community and are willing and eager participants in the community's civic association.

The Olde Forge-Surrey Square Civic Association is dedicated to promoting a high quality

of life for all of the residents. There is an active Neighborhood Watch program, which helps to ensure the area remains safe and that neighbors stay connected. The Brandywine Pool is a local gathering place for all, and there are frequent barbecues and other community events. Recently the civic association took on a large project to renovate its playground. Through the generous contributions of the residents, as well as support of the local business community, the civic association was able to raise enough money to qualify for a grant from Fairfax County for a complete playground renovation.

As the former president of my own civic association, I understand that when residents invest their time, care, and energies in their communities, it benefits all. Fairfax County is considered one of the best places in the nation in which to work, live, and raise a family, largely because of the willingness of so many to become actively involved.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Olde Forge-Surrey Square Civic Association on its 50th anniversary and in thanking all of the residents for their tireless efforts and dedication to the community and region.

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN REECE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Brian Reece of Osceola, Iowa, on receiving the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST).

This program, administered by the National Science Foundation on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, recognizes exemplary teachers for their contributions to the teaching and learning of math and science. Each award recipient will be receiving a certificate signed by the President, along with a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation. Each recipient will travel to Washington, D.C. for an awards ceremony at a later date.

Brian has been teaching mathematics for the past 19 years. Nine of those years have been spent at Central Academy, a public high school in Des Moines listed in the top one percent of educational programs by the College Board. He has taught in a number of Iowa school districts, as well as at the Des Moines Area Community College. Brian received his B.A. in Mathematics from Central College in Pella, Iowa, and furthered his mathematics education with a Master's of School Mathematics from Iowa State University.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Iowans like Brian Reece who display dedication and pride in developing Iowa's next generation. I know all of my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating Brian for receiving this prestigious award and wishing him nothing but success in the future.